As far as payment issues of fresh items of rations such as vegetables etc. is concerned, DID is catecatering only to Army ration card holders. Naval personnel purchase such items from INS India. In respect of Air Force personnel, the supply points are being decided between Army HQ and Air HQ.

C.G.H.S. facilities for Retired Employees of Ordnance Factories

4375. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the retired employees of ordnance factories and allied establishments do not get medical facilities through Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government proposes any change in the policy in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that even the Supreme Court and the Fourth Pay Commission have also asked Government to give these medical facilities to the above categories of its employees; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for delay and when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) to (d) The retired employees of Ordnance Factories (but other than HQrs units) are not eligible for facilities under Central Government Health Scheme. The reason is that the employees are not entitled to facilities in dispensaries and hospitals under the Central Government Health Scheme during their service, but only to similar facilities in dispensaries and hospitals under the Ordnance Factory Board. The Ordnance Factory Board has been requested to draw up a suitable scheme to provide similar medical facilities to retired employees of Ordnance Factories in the manner such facilities are provided to other retired civilian employees under the Central Government Health Scheme.

The Supreme Court had stated that Union of India should consider the question of providing necessary medical facilities to retired Ordnance Factory employees even if CGHS has not benefitted them and cannot be extended to them. They must see that some other benefits to which retired Ordnance Factory employees are entitled are extended to them.

The Fourth Pay Commission had noted that employees working in the Central Government and Union Territories, who were not covered by CGHS while in service, are not eligible for these facilities after their retirement, even though they may settle down in a place where CGHS facilities are available. The Pay Commission observed that Government is considering the improvement and expansion of CGHS for pensioners and have extended CGHS facilities to even those other than its employees a certain nominated dispensaries on payment of contributions. The Pay Commission recommended that CGHS facilities may be extended to all retired civilian Government employees, including those of Union Territories even if they were not covered by it while in service. This may be done wherever such facilities are provided.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have expressed their inability to extend CGHS facilities to retired employees of Ordnance Factories for the reason mentioned above.